rights for commercial advertisement at these stations as per the criteria laid down by the railway administration with the prior approval of the competent authority. The contractor will beutify the station by painting walls of platform, roof, main building, besides undertaking maintenance of the station. Other Zonal Railways have been instructed to identify the stations for this purpose.

Abolishing of sitting accommodation in Trains

1229. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 384 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th July, 1993; and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have altogether abolished the provision of reservation of sitting accommodation even for day journey on long distance trains and superfast trains ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to review this decision in view of providing accommodation to more passengers: and

(c) if so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this matter and if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) The facility of reservation of sitting accommodation during day-journey on long distance and superfast trains, in different classes, exists subject to availability of accommodation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

लंबी दूरी की रेलगाड़ियों की धीमी गति

1230. **श्री सुशील कुमार संभाजीराव शिन्दे :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अनेक लम्बी दूरी की रेलगाड़ियां बहुत धीमी गति से चलायी जा रही हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार भविष्य में तेज गति वाली रेलगाड़ियां चलाने के बारे में विचार कर रही हैं ?

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के. सी. लेंका) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) से (घ) मेल एक्सप्रेस सुपरफास्ट और राजधानी/शताब्दी एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियों तेज रफ्तार वाली गाड़ियां शुरू करना एक सतत प्रक्रिया है, बशर्ते कि यातायात औचित्य, परिचालनिक व्यावहारिकता और संसाधन उपलब्ध हों ।

Conversion of Chair-cars into Sleepers

1231. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have planned to convert the chair-cars into sleepers in the Rajdhani Express running between Bombay and New Delhi ;

(b) If so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) by when this change is likely to be effected; and

(d) what are the other trains in which this facility would be made available in future and by when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Initially an A.C. 3-Tier Sleeper has been provided on 2951/2952 Rajdhani Express in place of an A.C. Chair Car. Depending upon availability, A.C. Chair Cars in all the Rajdhani Expresses are proposed to be replaced by A. C. 3-tier coaches.

Conversion of MG/NG lines into B.G. lines

1232. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals from Gujarat Government for conversion of MG/NG lines into BG ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) which MG/NG lines of Gujarat State are to be converted into BG lines during the Eighth Five Year Plan period and by when the remaining MG/NG lines are likely to be converted to BG lines ;

(d) by when the gauge conversion work of Rajkot-Veraval MG Railway line would be taken up; and

(e) by when the said work would be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Proposals have been received for conversion of the following lines :

1. Rajkot-Veraval
2. Gandhidham-Bhuj
3. Surendranagar-Bhavnagar
4. Dharangadhra-Kuda

(c) and (d) Conversion of Rajkot-Veravl MG railway line into BG has been included in the proposed Railway Budget 94-95. At present there is no proposal for conversion of the other lines.

(e) The work will progress as per availability of resources in the coming years.

Provision on the Budget for completion of Nadiad-Kapadvanj M.G. line

1233. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have made very less provision in the budget for the year 1993-94 for Nadiad-Kapadvanj M. G. line and its extension up to Modasa (New B.G. lines);

(b) when this project was sanctioned and what are the reasons of slow progress in this section;

(c) whether Gujarat Government has requested the Central Government to allot sufficient funds for this project in the current year; and

(d) by when the remaining work would be completed in the above project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1978-79. Gauge conversion work has been completed. Work on construction of new lines from Kapadvanj to Modasa has not made significant progress due to low operational priority and constraint of resources.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In the coming years as per availability of resources.

Metro Rail Project Calcutta

1234. SHRI ASHOK MITRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the magnitude of the economic, social and environmental losses to the citizens of Calcutta on account of the metro rail project being elongated beyond twenty years ;

(b) whether it is agreeable to set up an expert group to quantify these losses; and

(c) the nature of compensation, if any, Government are contemplating to offer to the people of Calcutta for the heavy economic and social cost they have incurred and are incurring on account of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) The delay in the Metro Railway Project, Calcutta beyond twenty years has been caused by various factors including considerable delay in getting possession of the site at various locations. However, most of these problems have now been resolved and the project is now progressing speedily and expected to be completed by December, 1995.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) There is no such proposal. However, the running of trains over an additional six block sections would be introduced during 1994-95